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ABSTRACT

This book suggests ways that children's books can create frames of reference about the related topics of war and peace. It suggests ways that books can be used to start a dialogue between adults and children, to facilitate communication about a subject that causes much anxiety in children. Rather than bibliotherapy, however, the object of this book is to help adults help children understand the complex issues involved in war and peace. Books are used to create a shared frame of reference and to extend the child's experiences beyond the everyday world. They make abstract or historical concepts more concrete and comprehensible. The book is organized into four chapters. The first chapter presents a historical perspective on the process of sharing books about war and peace with children, as well as some of the developmental issues involved with giving the right book to the right child at the right time. The second chapter suggests specific techniques for sharing books about war and peace in the library, classroom, and home. Chapter three presents an analytical overview of the topics of war and peace in children's literature. The longest part of the book is the classified bibliography that is divided into sections on real and imaginary wars, learning about peace and conflict resolution, timeless truths from folk and fairy tales, the vision of poets, and resources for adults. Many of the 480 titles are out of print but should be readily available in libraries. Each bibliography entry is accompanied by an descriptive annotation. (DK)

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